

and earnest desire of the sincere and faithful Christian,—of him who believes this doctrine—is to set God always before him, convinced that He is always at hand to succour and defend those who put their trust in Him, not relying on their own strength, but on the strength of Him whose “grace is sufficient for them.” Man in his best state is an “unprofitable servant.” No one can say what our blessed Saviour was able to say, “Father I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” Every Christian knows and confesses with St. Paul—“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

These few observations, and the emblems of mourning\* which are seen around us, will sufficiently indicate to you the channel into which your thoughts may at this time, as I conceive, be profitably directed, and readily remind you of the recent death of one, who for many years was my fellow labourer in this Parish—a spiritual pastor and master in this Congregation, and in that capacity bound to you, as well as to myself, by the most interesting and important of all human ties.

Connected with this mournful event are many circumstances which it may be useful and profitable to bring to your remembrance, and which will suggest reflections fraught with the best instruction to all you of this Congregation, who were the dearest objects of his pastoral care and regard, and whose spiritual and eternal welfare he sought to promote with the most untiring zeal and diligence and earnest prayer.

My own feelings and my own weaknesses are such, that I confess myself totally unable to do justice to the memory and the worth of my departed friend and fellow-labourer. Moreover, to a deep consciousness of my own inability for the task, is added a constitutional unfitness, and a natural reluctance to approach such affecting subjects. I freely admit, however, that such mournful occurrences as the present are full of instruction and carry with them no unmeaning lesson of admonition for our own preparation for the last sad summons. Nay, it is our bounden duty for the good of

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\* The Church was hung with mourning.